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Good Afternoon Mr. Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the Michigan New Jobs Training program. My company, WABCO opened a new facility in Rochester Hills in 2011, which is now Wabco's North American Headquarters. OCC was part of the team of economic developers who recruited us to Michigan. The MNJT program was an important part of our decision to locate in Michigan and hire the 101 new workers we now employ in Rochester Hills.

The MNJT program has been great for my Colleagues and I to further our education or in some cases attend classes for the first time. This program has helped the employees gain experience and help Wabco bring some business functions in-house rather than outsourcing to a 3rd party or overseas (i.e. Project Management, IT, Engineering, Quality and Manufacturing) to name a few of the areas Wabco has been able to leverage with this program.

Our contract was one of the first signed, before the \$50 million cap was reached. At that time, the \$1.9 million incentive WABCO received absolutely influenced our decision to locate here. If we had been told that we had to wait in a queue to receive the funds, or that we were limited to \$500,000 it would not have had the impact it did on our decision. I urge you to consider eliminating the cap in order to ensure the program does what it's supposed to do – help create new jobs in Michigan.

I also understand the program is scheduled to sunset in 2018. Our experience working with OCC at WABCO has created a partnership which will continue to grow for years. If this program did not exist, I cannot say we would even be working together. The MNJT program is vital to creating the skilled workforce we needed – and it created wonderful opportunities for our company and employees – I urge you to continue providing this opportunity for more companies into the future.

Finally, and of particular importance to WABCO, it is imperative that our original agreement be honored. We have a number of employees who meet the requirement of 175% of minimum wage at the time we signed the agreement, but who would not qualify for training under the new minimum wage rule. In order to complete their training and be compliant with the law, we are asking to be grandfathered into new legislation preserving our original commitment to minimum wages.

This is a wonderful program which allows us to provide a broad range of training. I hope you will work to make the changes I outlined to ensure it is available to not only WABCO, but other growing employers and their employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dana Antoun", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dana Antoun
IT Manager NAFTA
Wabco North America